

Stretch Code FAQs

When would the stretch code take effect?

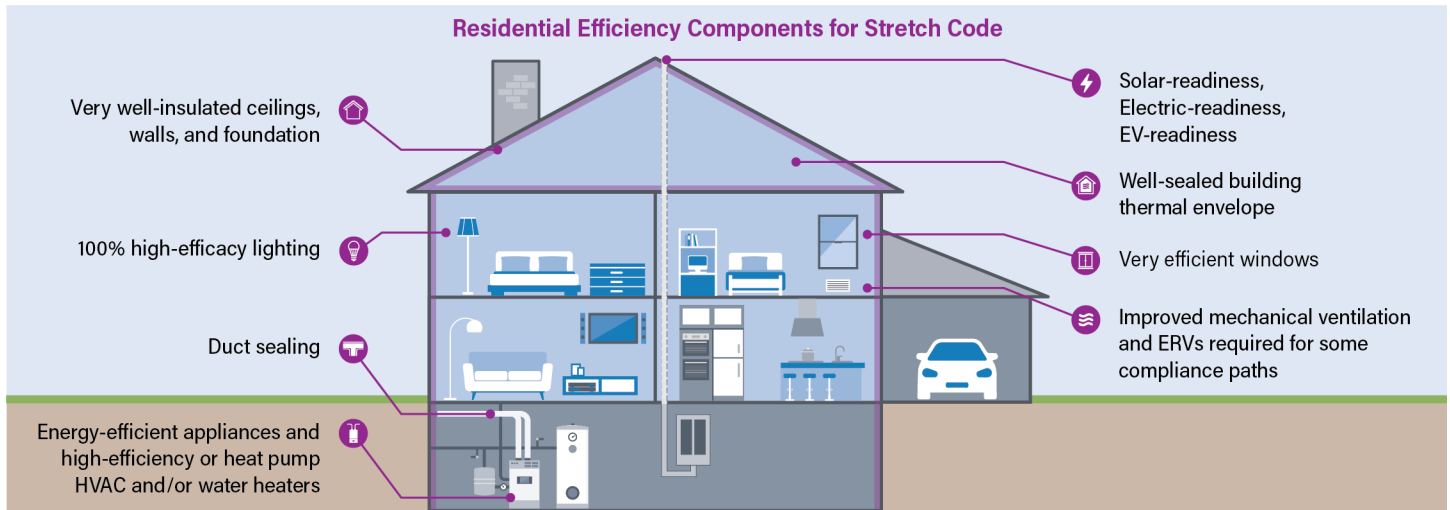
The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) shall complete development of the Illinois stretch code elements and requirements by December 31, 2023. The stretch codes shall then be completed and **available for adoption by municipalities by June 30, 2024.**

1. What is a stretch code?

A stretch code is an alternative energy code that goes beyond the minimum base energy code requirements and defines a higher level of energy efficiency for new construction. Once formally adopted by a municipality, the stretch code takes the place of the state energy code and establishes the minimum energy efficiency requirements for new construction, additions, and major renovations. Stretch codes cover both commercial and residential buildings.

2. What led to the Illinois stretch code and how is it different than the Illinois base code?

In 2021, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) was passed in Illinois, which contained a provision to create a statewide stretch energy code for the first time. CEJA requires that the Illinois stretch code improve energy efficiency in residential buildings by 34.2% and in commercial buildings by 9.1% compared to the current Illinois base energy code.



3. What are the benefits of adopting a stretch code?

- Energy and operating cost savings compared to base code
- Policy mechanism to address building energy performance and climate goals
- Improved indoor air quality from tighter envelopes, better sealed ducts, and increased ventilation
- Increased ability to maintain safe indoor conditions during energy outages due to buildings designed with tighter envelopes
- Driving market acceptance, development, and adoption of more energy efficient codes in the future

4. How is a stretch code developed and adopted?

As described above, CEJA set “site energy index” performance targets to increase energy efficiency every three years. The following process describes the key steps in creation and adoption of stretch codes every three years.

